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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/720,334	11/25/2003	Norman L. Cochran	62-330	3915

20736 7590 05/05/2005

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2000 M STREET NW SUITE 700  
WASHINGTON, DC 20036-3307

EXAMINER

HARTMANN, GARY S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3671

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/720,334

Applicant(s)

COCHRAN, NORMAN L.

Examiner

Gary Hartmann

Art Unit

3671

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 April 2005.  
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10, 11, 13-20 and 22 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10, 11, 13-20 and 22 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 October 2004 and 25 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

In view of the newly found references, prosecution is hereby reopened.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-8, 10, 11, 13-20 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson (U.S. Patent 3,396,643) in view of Feliz (U.S. Patent 4,253,256) and Lee (U.S. Patent 3,743,432).

Johnson discloses an apparatus for spreading aggregate material including an engine carrier by a body, and a powered motive structure (16, 17). There is a non-driving wheel structure (71) movable between an inoperative position (Figure 2, for example) and a ground engaging position (Figure 5, for example). There is a lift jack constructed and arranged to lift a portion of the body with respect to the ground to enable the hitch structure to be in a position to be coupled with a vehicle for towing the apparatus (Figures 4 and 5). Because the invention is directed elsewhere, Johnson is silent with respect to the hopper and dispensing structure.

Feliz teaches the apparatus having the hopper and dispensing structure as claimed. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used the hopper and dispensing structure of Feliz with the apparatus of Johnson in order to obtain a multi-function material distribution machine, as taught by Feliz.

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Johnson teaches the apparatus to be loaded using a dump truck (56, 57), but does not specify the push rollers. Lee teaches push rollers (80, 80') on an aggregate spreading apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used rollers of Lee in order to facilitate material transfer between a dump truck and the apparatus of Johnson.

Claims 8 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson/Feliz/Lee as applied above, and further in view of Vangaever (U.S. Patent 4,895,476).

Johnson does not teach the powered broom structure; however, it is well known to use powered brooms with material distribution apparatuses in order to more effectively control material, as exemplified by Vangaever. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used a powered broom with Johnson for this purpose.

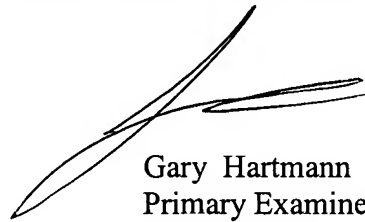
### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary Hartmann whose telephone number is 571-272-6989. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 9am-7pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Will can be reached on 571-272-6998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping 'G' followed by 'Hartmann'.

Gary Hartmann  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3671

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